



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ'S DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM moves to Beauregard Parish

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality recently selected Beauregard Parish as the next stop for its drinking water-protection campaign. “Protect Drinking Water One Drop at a Time” is the name of the program that is aimed at increasing the public’s awareness and participation in protecting the area’s drinking water.

The campaign will officially kickoff with a community meeting on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008, at 6 p.m. at the DeRidder Council Chambers, 200 S. Jefferson St., in DeRidder. The campaign seeks to involve private citizens, community groups, water systems, businesses and industry in the protection of Beauregard Parish’s waters. The meeting will address the sources of drinking water in Beauregard Parish, the goals of the program and how people can participate. Because clean water is essential for good health, the team will share protection and conservation tips that residents can use in their homes.

DEQ is encouraging all residents in Beauregard Parish to join this effort to protect our environment. This is the kind of public education campaign that gives citizens control over the fate of their natural resources. Everyone should take an active role in ensuring clean drinking water for the future.

The Drinking Water Protection Program is a voluntary program designed to assist communities in protecting their drinking water sources. “Drinking Water Protection Area” signs will replace signs that read “Wellhead Protection Area,” along major roadways in Beauregard Parish to remind people when a public drinking water supply well is nearby.

The team is seeking volunteers to serve on a committee to work with the community in creating a sustainable drinking water protection program. For more information you may contact drinking water team members Mary Gentry or Tiffani Cravens at (225) 219-3510 and visit the DEQ Drinking Water Protection Program web page at <http://www.deq.la.gov/AEPS>.